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XXII. *An Account of a singular Apple-Tree, producing Fruit of opposite Qualities ; a Part of the same Apple being frequently sour, and the other sweet. In a Letter from the Reverend PETER WHITNEY, to the Reverend JOSEPH WILLARD, V. Pres. A. A. and President of the University in Cambridge.*

Northborough, July 15, 1782.

REVEREND SIR,

THERE is now growing in an orchard, lately belonging to my honoured father, the Reverend *Aaron Whitney*, of *Petersham*, deceased, an apple-tree, very singular with respect to its fruit. The apples are fair, and, when fully ripe, of a yellow colour, but, evidently, of different tastes—sour and sweet. The part which is sour is not very tart, nor the other very sweet. Two apples growing side by side, on the same limb, will be often of these different tastes, the one all sour, and the other all sweet. And, which is more remarkable, the same apple will frequently be sour on one side, end, or part, and the other sweet, and that not in any order or uniformity ; nor is there any difference in the appearance of the one part from the other. And as to the quantity, some have more of the acid and less of the sweet, and so *vice versa*. Neither are the apples so different in their tastes, peculiar to any particular branches, but are found, promiscuously, on every branch of the tree. The tree stands almost in the midst of a large orchard, in a rich and strong soil, and was transplanted there about forty years ago. There is no appearance of the trunk or any of the branches having been ingrafted or inoculated. It was a number of years, after it had born fruit, before these different

ferent tastes were noticed ; but since they were first discovered, which is about twenty years, there has been constantly the same variety in the apples.

For the truth of what I have asserted, I can appeal to many persons of distinction, and of nice tastes, who have travelled a great distance to view the tree, and taste the fruit ; but to investigate the cause of an effect so much out of the common course of nature, must, I think, be attended with difficulty. The only solution I can conceive is, that the *corcula*, or hearts of two seeds, the one from a sour, the other from a sweet apple, might so incorporate, in the ground, as to produce but one plant : or that farina, from blossoms of those opposite qualities, might pass into, and impregnate the same seed. If you should think the account I have given you, of this singular apple-tree, will be acceptable to the *American Academy*, please to communicate it.

I am, &c.

PETER WHITNEY.

Reverend President Willard.

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